

Port Jervis, NY – U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-NY19) today announced that he has secured \$110,000 to help the Port Jervis Police Department purchase state-of-the art communications systems that will replace outmoded equipment. The new technology will, for the first time, allow Port Jervis police to rapidly communicate with fire departments, law enforcement officers, and EMS personnel in surrounding communities, allowing for instant coordinated responses to area emergencies. Without the federal funding from Congressman John Hall, Port Jervis would have had to pass along the entire cost of these expensive systems to local taxpayers. Rep. Hall said, "in this day and age, our police and fire departments must be able to communicate with each other. Public safety demands that when tragedy strikes, first responders in neighboring communities help one another. Now, Port Jervis police officers will have a vital resource to protect the city's residents."

Port Jervis Police Chief William Worden said, "the equipment obtained under this funding will provide officers with the necessary tools to respond to acts of violence in our neighborhoods, schools, reservoir system, industrial complexes and mass transit facilities. This equipment is extremely difficult to procure under normal budgetary conditions."

The funding that Hall secured for the equipment was included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act (H.R. 1105) which passed the House last week by a vote of 245 to 178. The legislation is likely to pass the Senate and the President is expected to sign the bill into law. The FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains the nine 2009 appropriations bills that were not completed by last year's Congress. Without enactment of these bills, funding for all federal energy research, health care, education, law enforcement, consumer protection, bank regulation and transportation programs would run out on March 6th.

"Congress rejected the devastating cuts President Bush tried to make last year, and we are now passing a bill that will keep the government running and finish last year's business," said Congressman Hall. "Together with the economic recovery package, which prevented police department layoffs across America, our actions today will make the people of Port Jervis safer and more secure."